UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Los Angeles

Charlie Parker: Techniques of Improvisation

Volume II

A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Music

bу

Thomas Owens

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FORWARD

With few exceptions, the music in this volume consists of excerpts from recordings, Charlie Parker's improvised melodies. Both the solos of other players and the accompanimental parts to Parker's solos are generally excluded, because the topic of research is limited to Parker's improvisation techniques, and because Parker's solos are essentially uninfluenced by the musicians with whom he played. The full-score exceptions to these limitations are mentioned in the course of Volume I, and are visually obvious in the following pages.

Within these transcribed solos a further limitation exists. In most cases, while the pitch notation is as accurate as I can make it, the rhythmic notation is only approximate, and the details of phrasing and articulation are totally absent. The inclusion of such refinements would have added hundreds of hours to the transcribing time of these pieces, and would have contributed little additional information. The handful of pieces that are more carefully transcribed provides a basic understanding of these parameters of Parker's style. Again, they are visually obvious.

Some symbols that appear in the transcriptions require explanation. The sign ***_____* indicates a slight lagging behind the beat during a phrase or part of a phrase. Stems that lack heads (or) and question marks above or below notes indicate notes too faintly recorded to be heard clearly. Heads that lack stems () indicate notes played in rhythms too complex to be notated accurately. Arrows above notes (or) indicate substantial deviation from equal temperament.

Throughout this volume, I have used a system of numbering measures that appears cumbersome, but is useful for purposes of analysis. In blues pieces, the first Arabic number is the chorus number, and the second number is the measure within the chorus. Thus, a blues piece is numbered

1-1 through 1-12, 2-1 through 2-12, 3-1 through 3-12, etc. In pieces based on harmonic structures in <u>aaba</u>, <u>abab'</u>, or some other form, the measure numbers include lower-case letters that indicate the form. Thus, a piece based on a 32-measure theme in aaba form is numbered as follows:

la₁-1 through la₁-8,
la₂-1 through la₂-8,
lb-1 through lb-8,
la₃-1 through la₃-8,
2a₁-1 through 2a₁-8, etc.

When a piece was recorded more than once during a recording session and two or more of these takes are available, capital letters precede the measure numbers: A equals take 1, B equals take 2, C equals take 3, etc. Introductions, interludes, and codas are numbered separately in order to keep the chorus numbering system intact.





























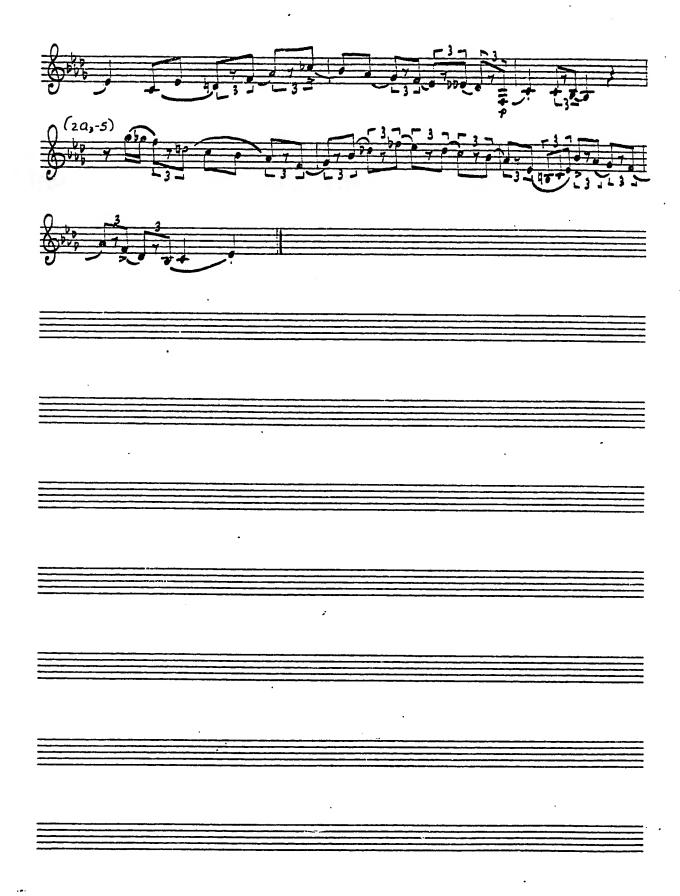






SPOTLITE 120





OTHERS





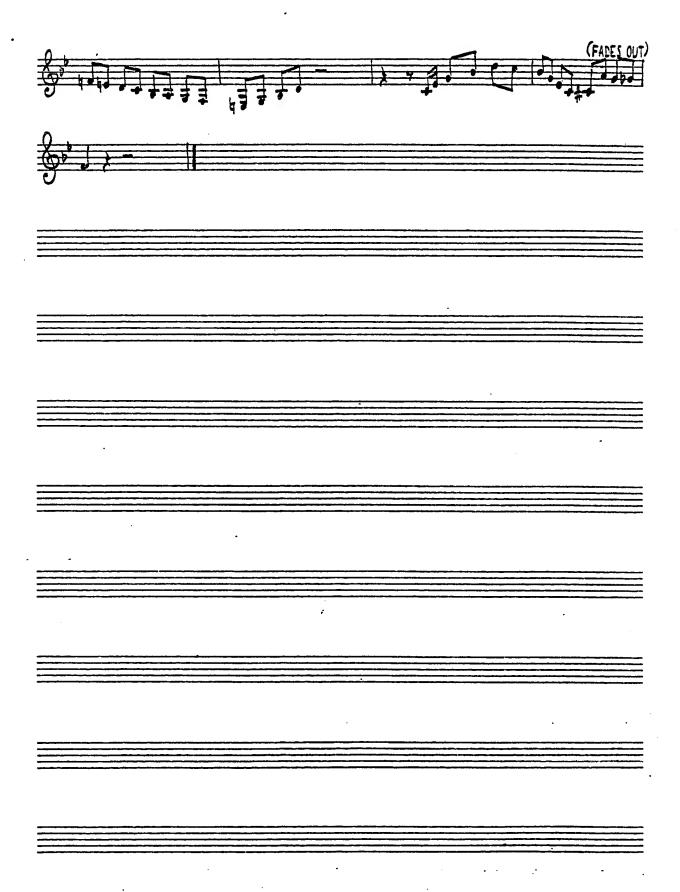












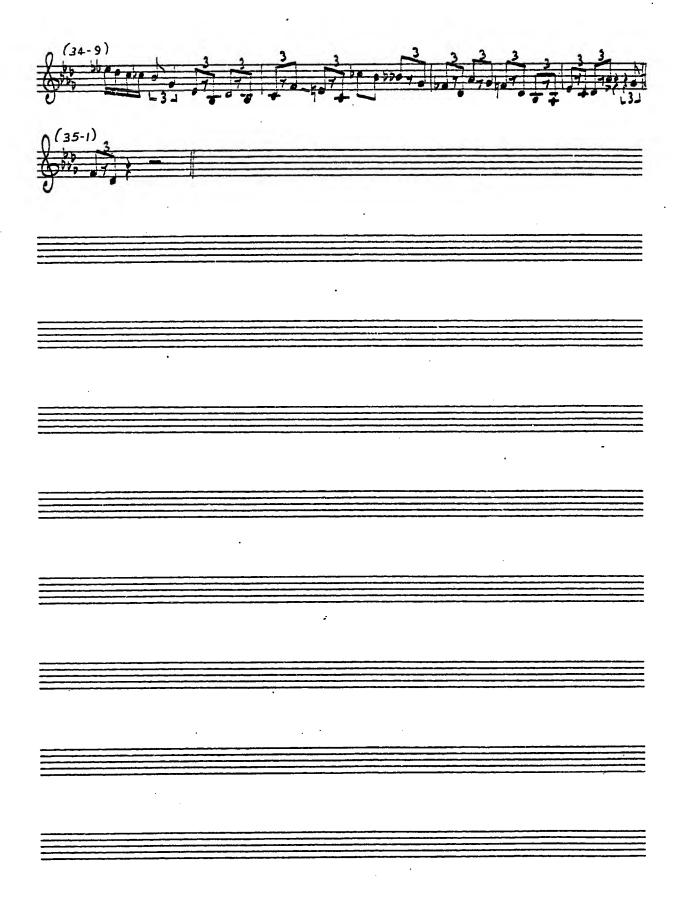
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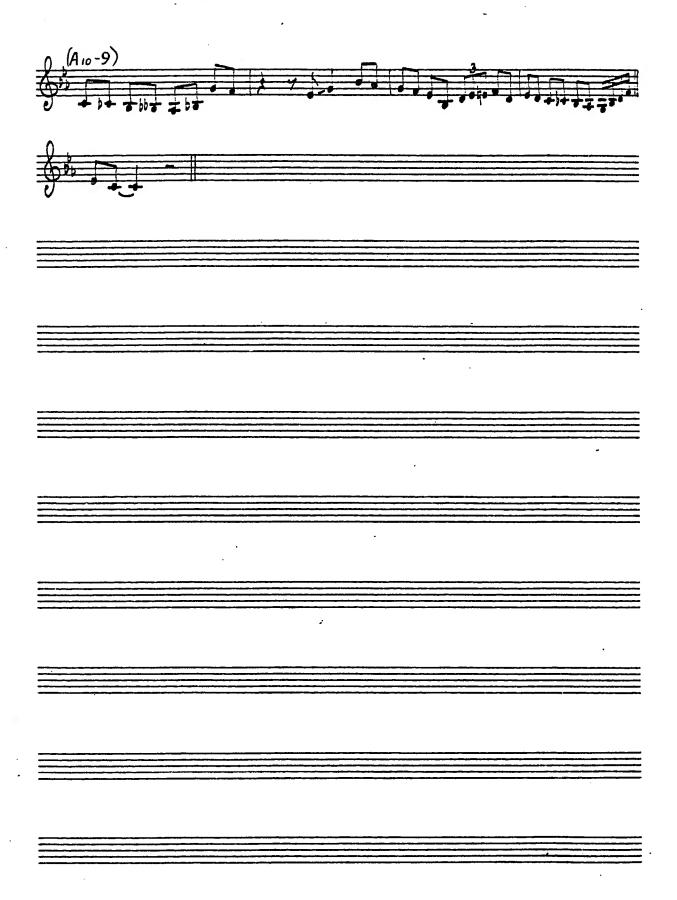


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(B2a2·1)
(B2a2·1)

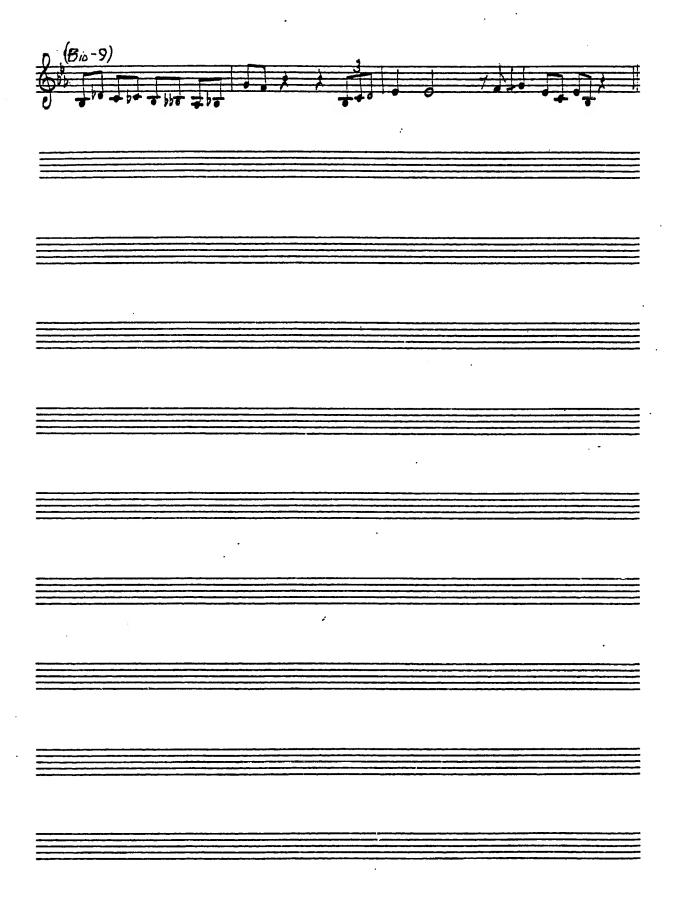




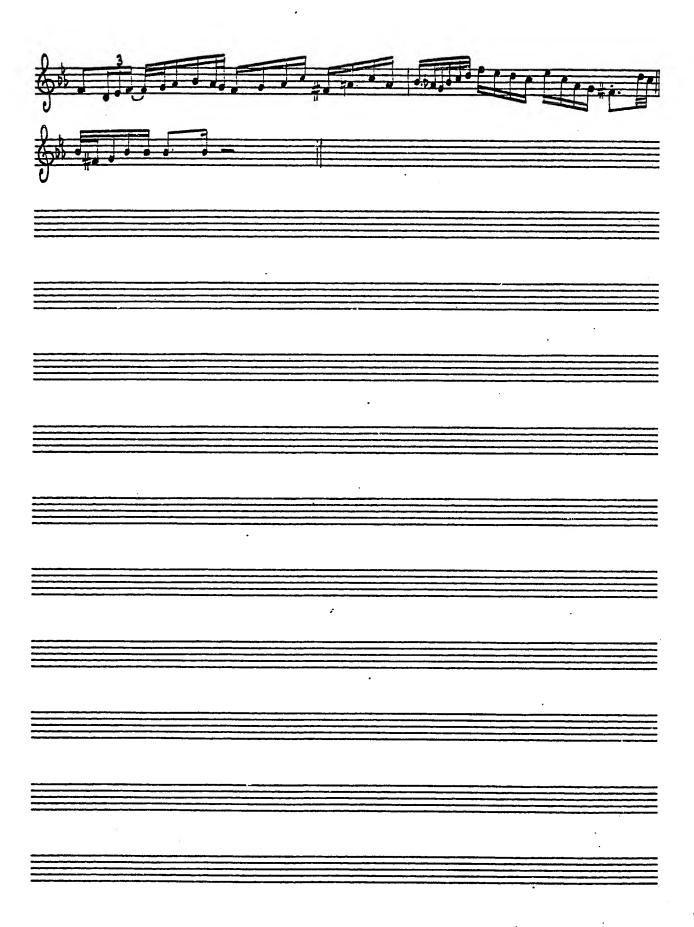




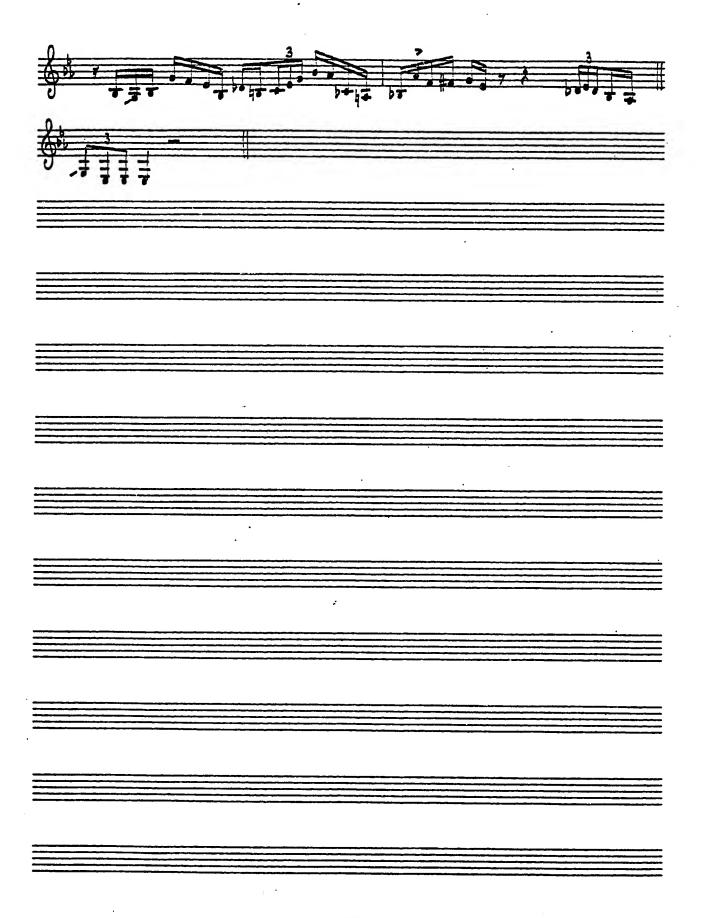
CARVIN' THE BIRD 2/26/47; DIA TAKE 2 J= CQ. 210 (B2-9) (B3-1) (B₃-9)







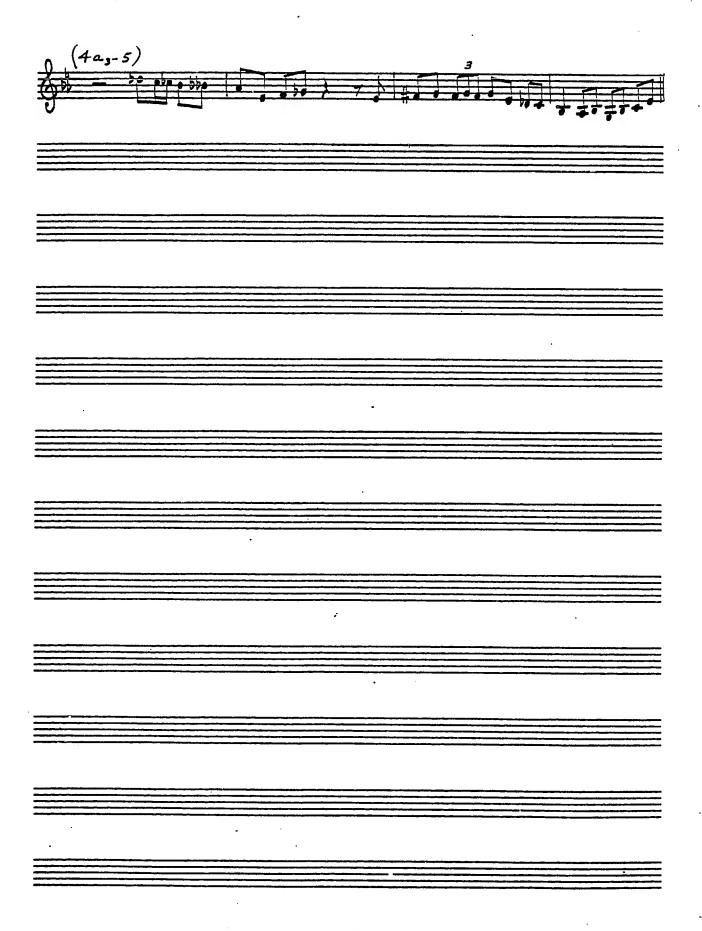




















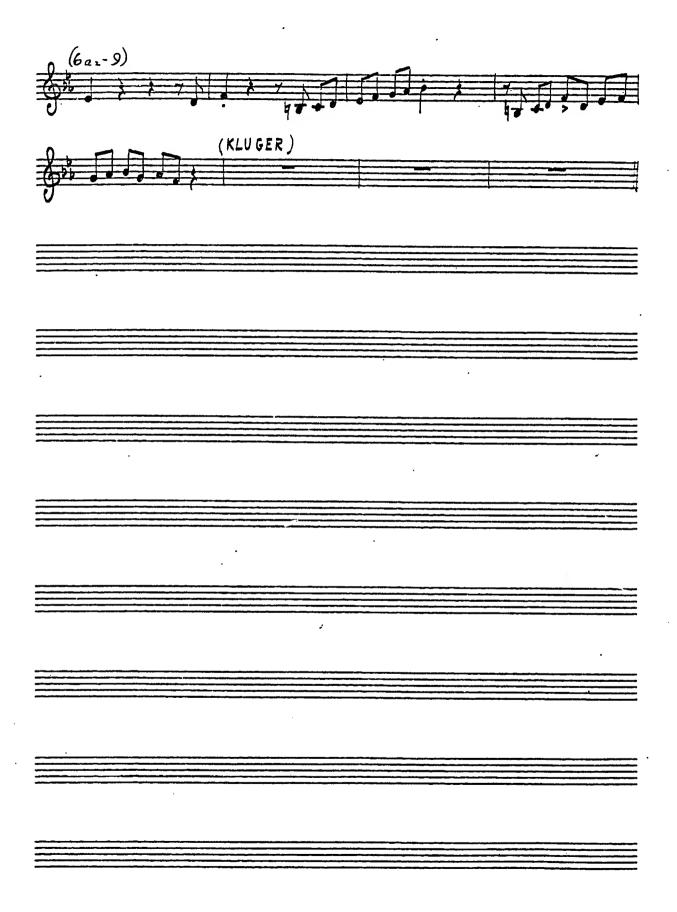














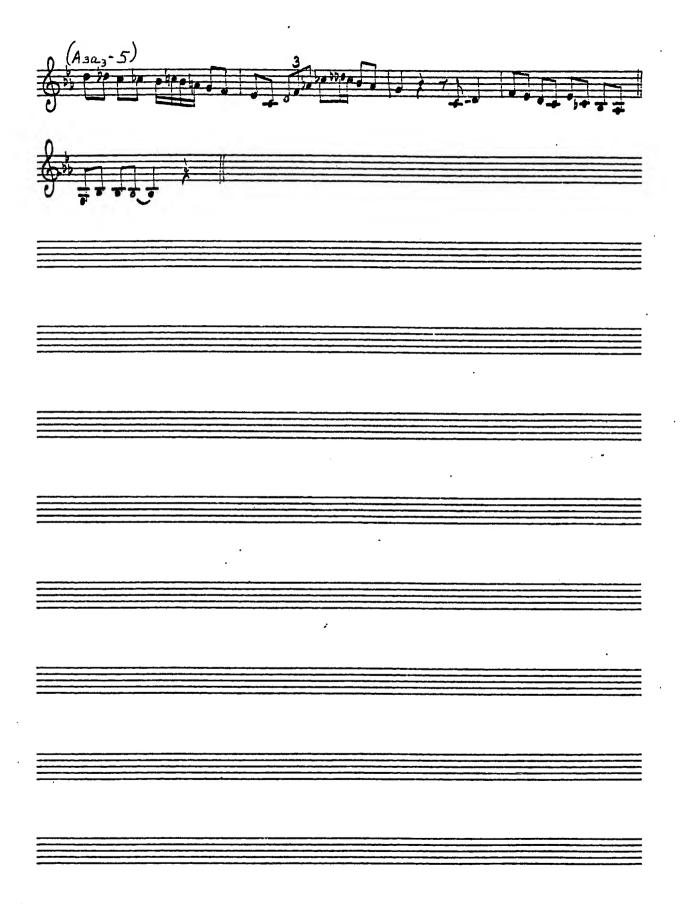






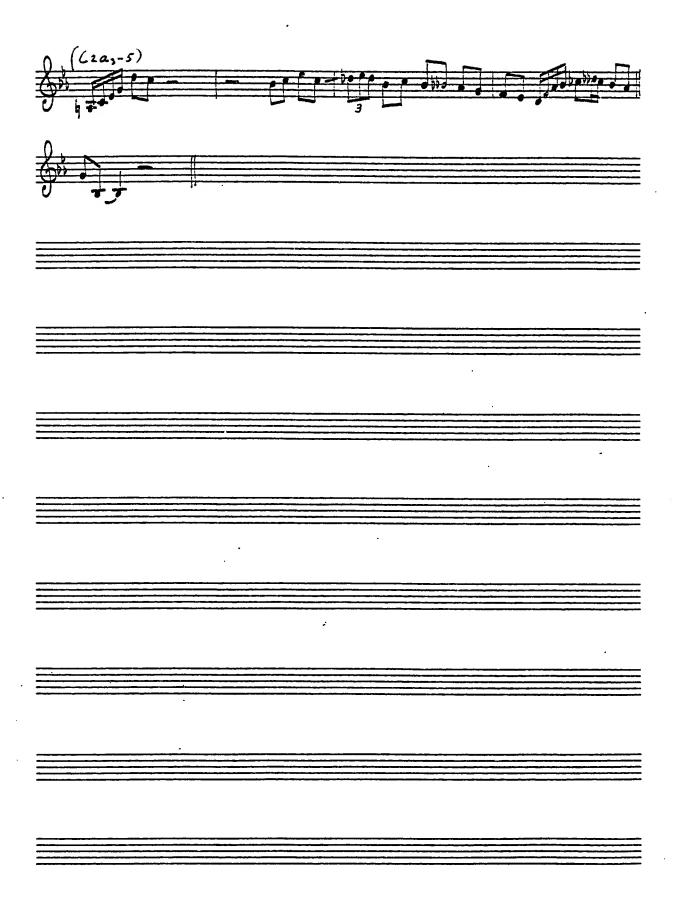




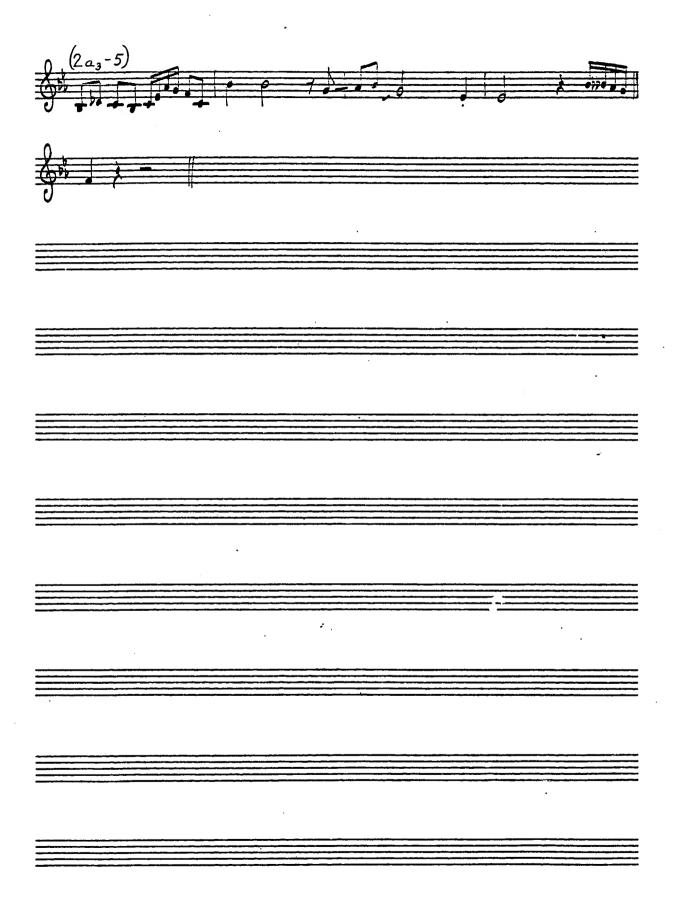
































Savay MG 12000, others















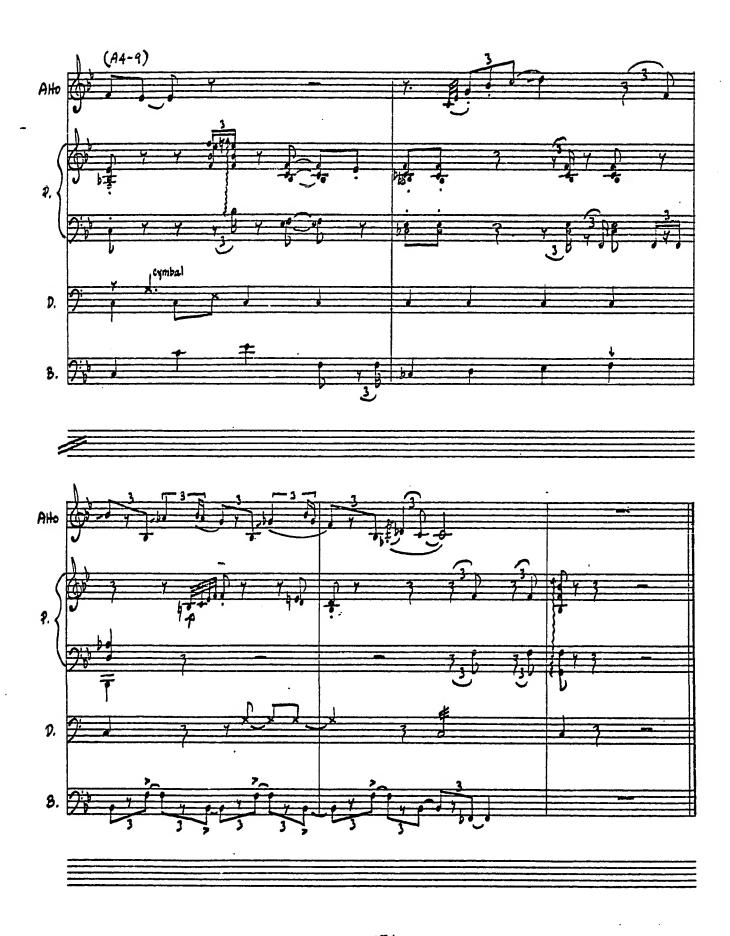




























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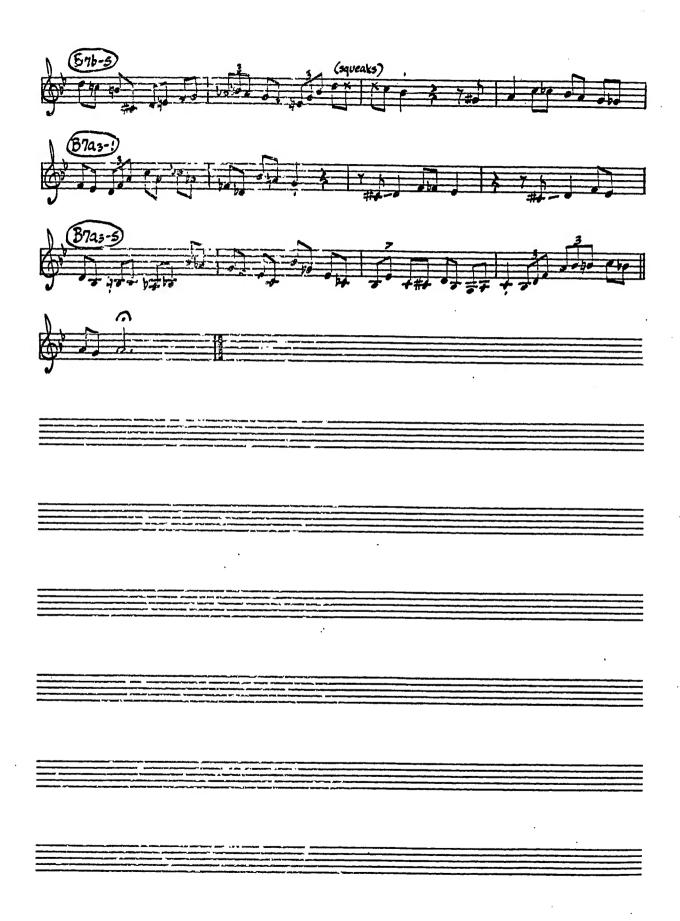


















































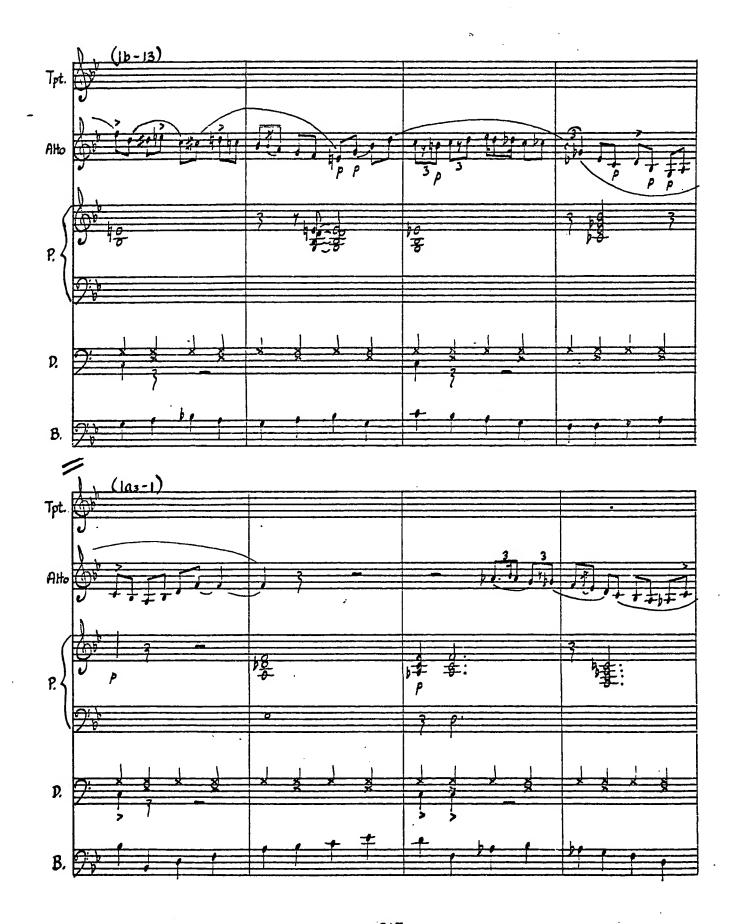


























































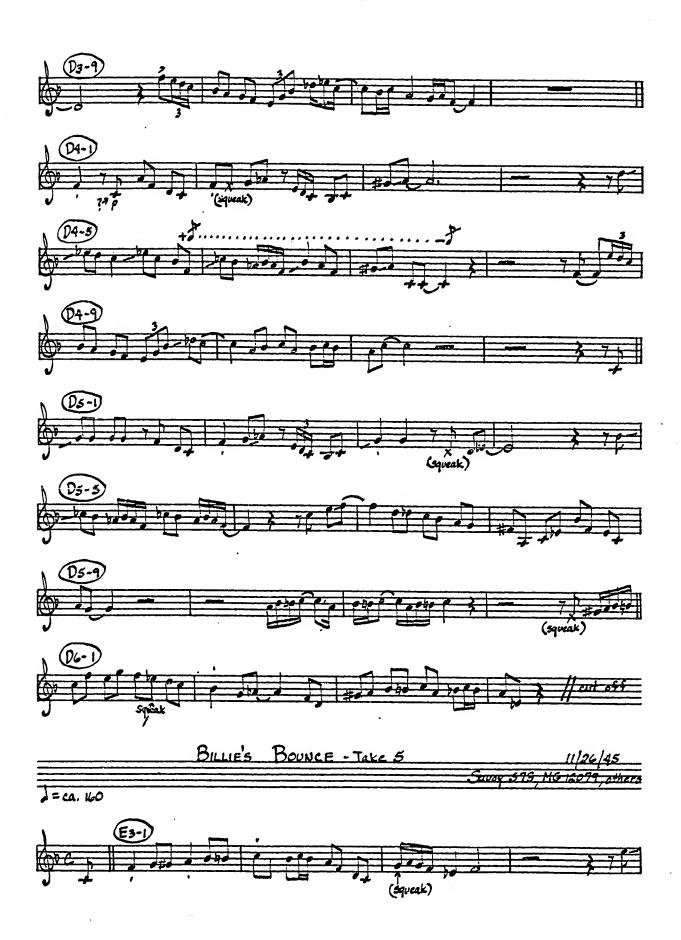










































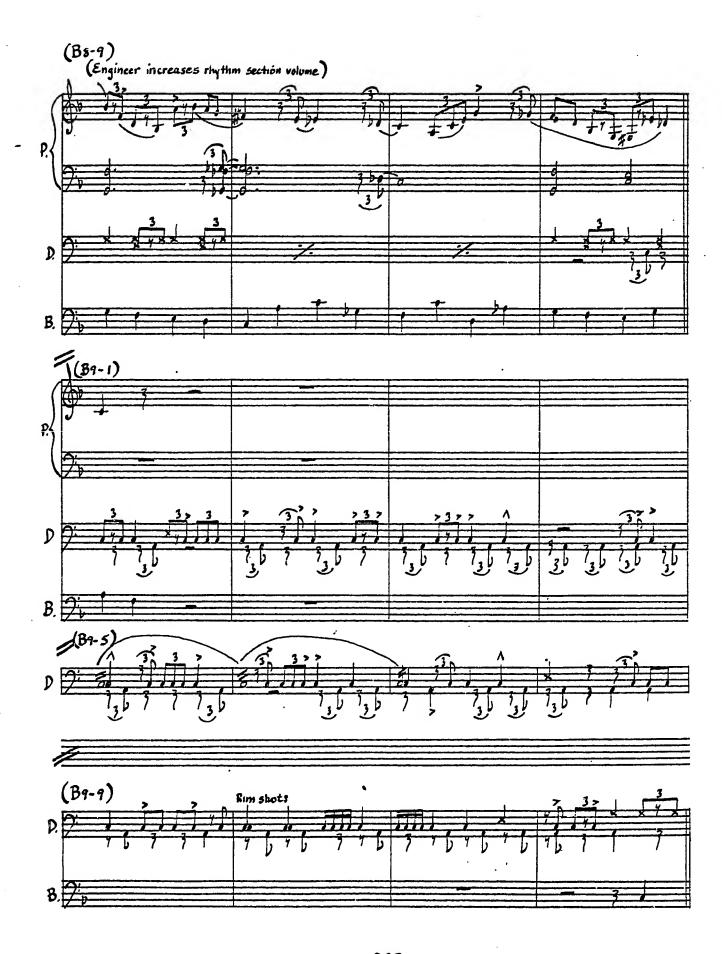






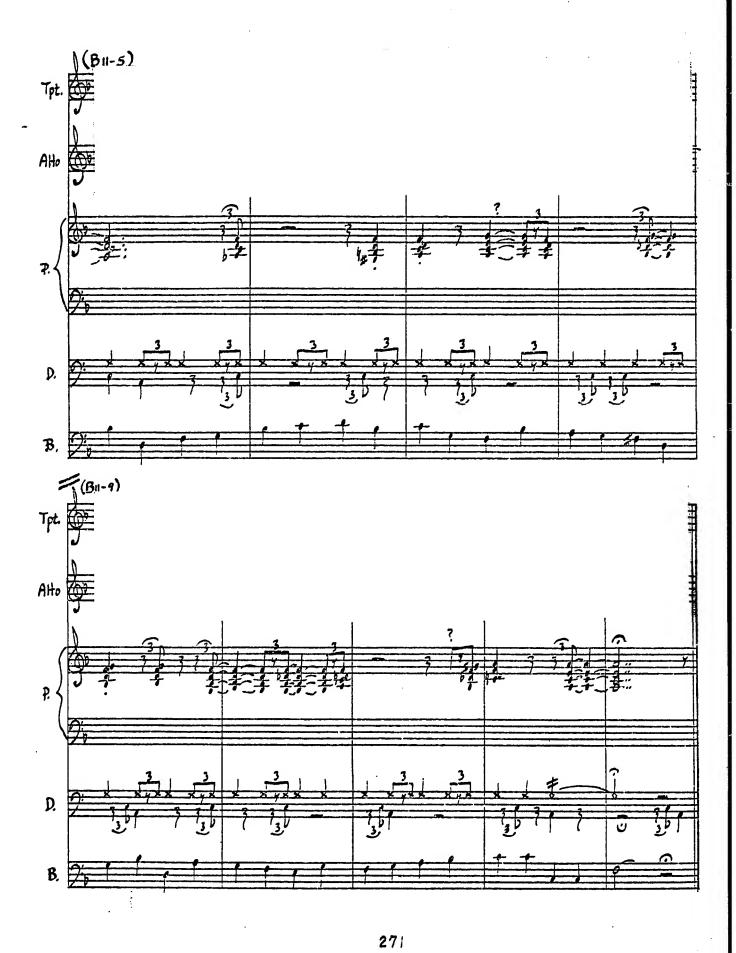
















THE SQUIRREL 6/16/52; J = CQ. 220 (43-1)(43-5) (43-9) (44-1) (45-9)





















































































SCRAPPLE FROM THE APPLE













































Kidoke ESP Bird 1



















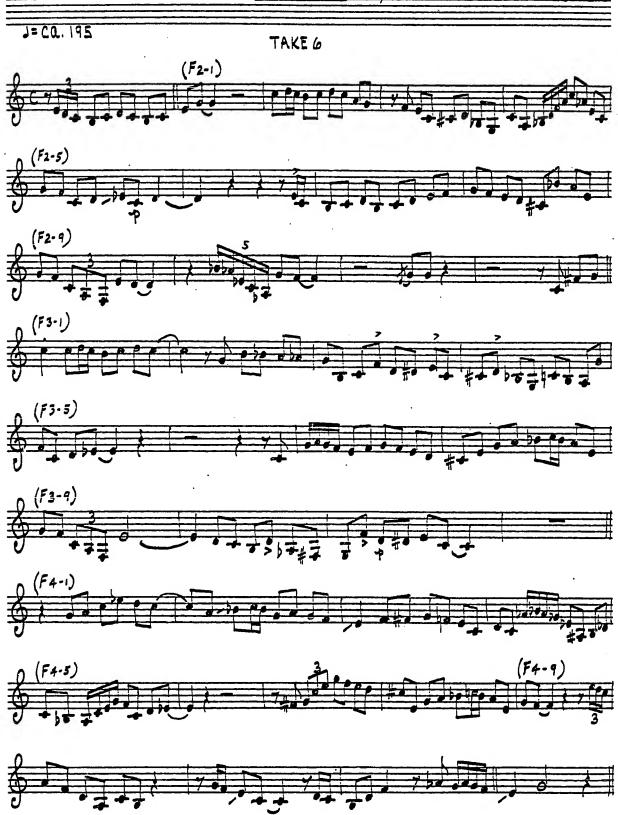


















































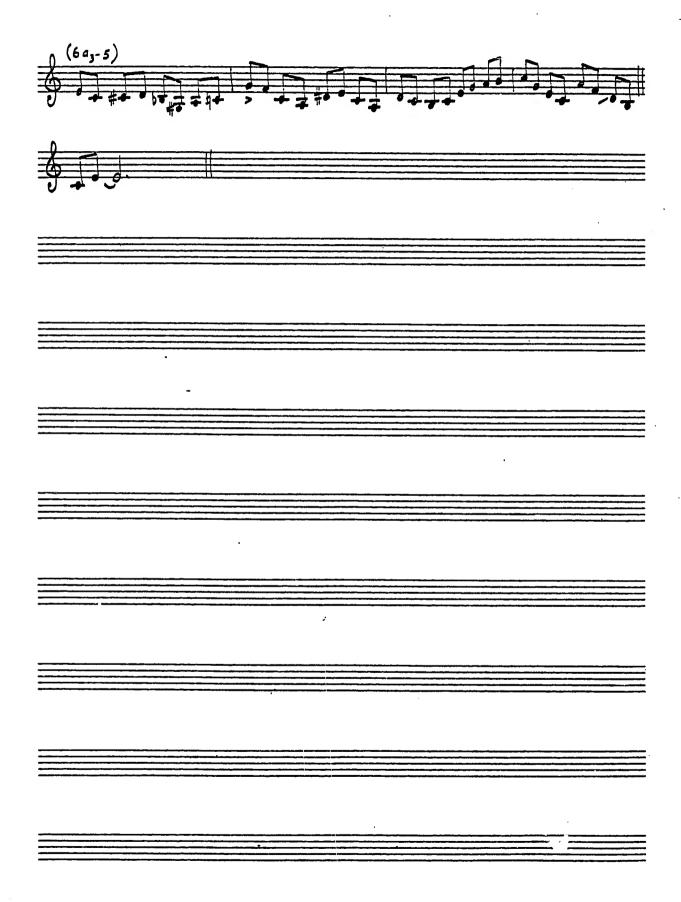


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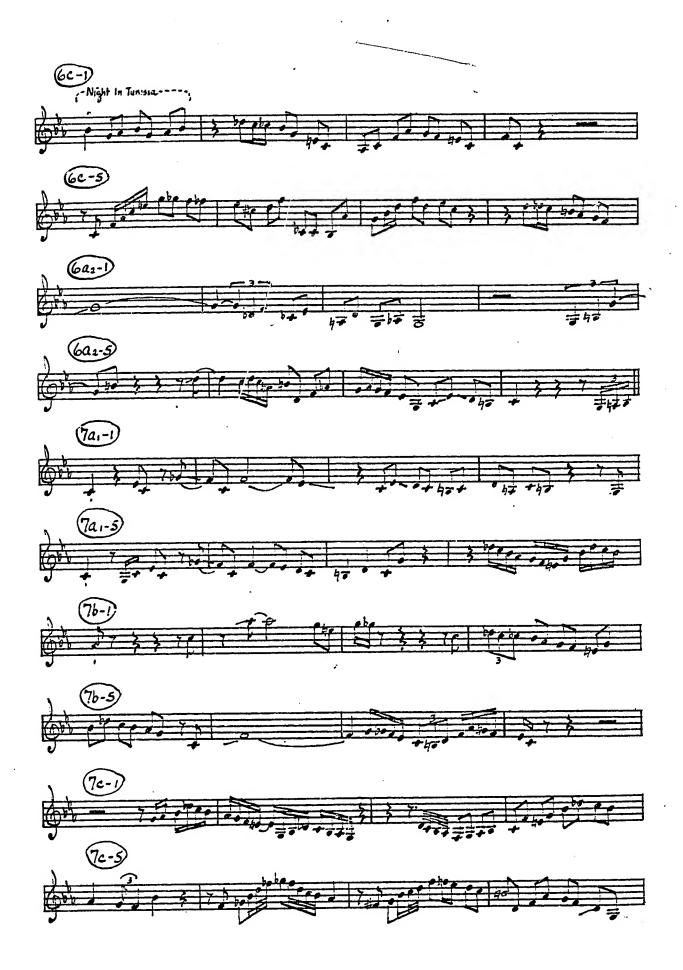
















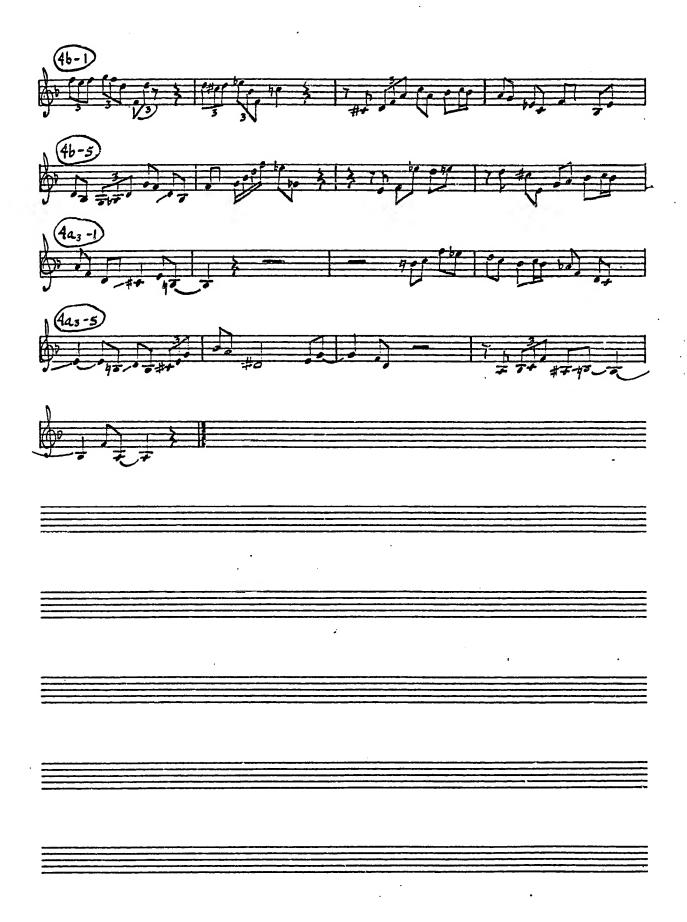
































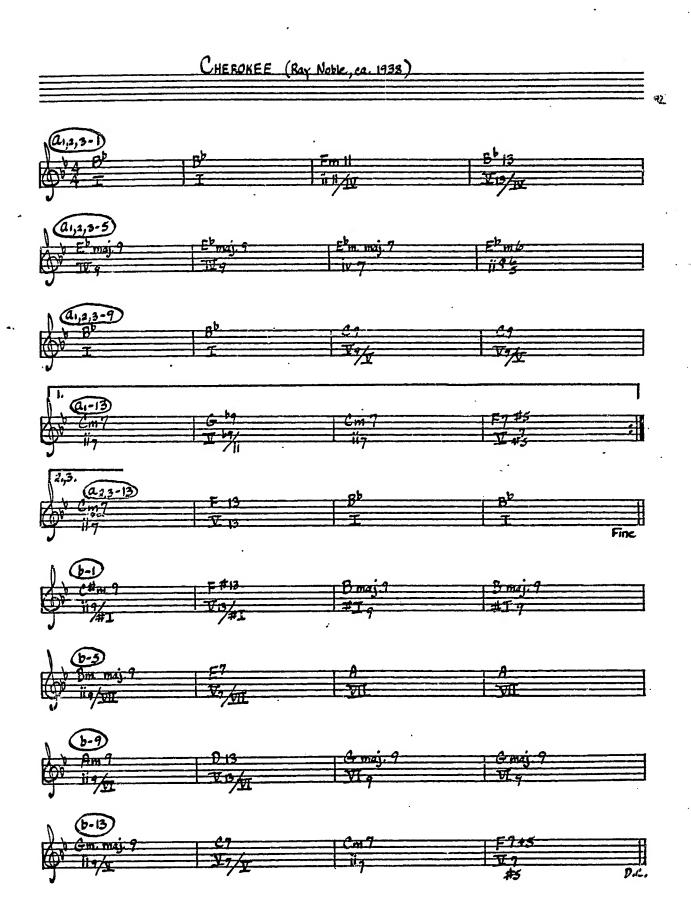


CHORD PROGRESSIONS FOR IMPROVISATIONS (b-1) (b-1)

INDIANA (James F. Hanley, ea. 1917) and | C-1) | C 0 7 | Fm | Dm 07 | C 19 |







1. HONEYSUCKLE ROSE (Fats Waller, ca. 1929) and 2. Scrapple From the Apple (Charlie Parker, ca. 1947)



